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KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

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PRESS RELEASE

USAID Celebrates 15th Anniversary of Partnership with Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyz government representatives, donors, local and international organizations, and civil society leaders celebrated the 15th anniversary of USAID partnership with Kyrgyzstan in Bishkek on December 4, 2008. “Through USAID, the American people have provided over \$400 million dollars worth of assistance over these past 15 years in support of reforms in a wide range of sectors. This assistance has been felt in many areas of Kyrgyz society, from auctions of the agricultural Land Reserve Fund to healthcare policy, from the development of vibrant non-governmental organizations to fiscal decentralization, and in many other areas,” said Charge d’Affairs of the U.S. Embassy, Earle D. Litzenberger.



First Vice-Prime Minister of Kyrgyz Republic, Iskenderbek Aidaraliev noted that “this cooperation is important for Kyrgyzstan’s economy, by improving its competitiveness, achieving stable economic development, and implementing all tasks defined by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic for the Government, in the Country’s Development Strategy.”

William Frej, USAID Regional Mission Director and Pat Shapiro, USAID Country Representative in the Kyrgyz Republic provided an overview of 15 years of partnership, while USAID partners and beneficiaries reiterated USAID’s role in providing assistance in the health care, education, and agricultural sectors. Ainura Ibraimova, WHO and USAID’s ZdravPlus Project Consultant, Natalia Dyomina, Director of Shopokov School # 1, and Ranohan Nasredinova, Consultant of the USAID Land Reform and Market Development Project II, gave concrete examples of successful cooperation between the United States and the Kyrgyz Republic.

USAID programs promote broad-based economic growth and macroeconomic policy reforms related to finance, trade, land, the fiscal sector, the business environment, as well as the agriculture and energy sectors. USAID has also contributed to the development of a stable banking sector and a thriving microfinance sector, worked with local governments and communities to provide opportunities for local economic development.

Support for health sector reforms focuses on enhancing access and improving the quality of medical care, as well as treatment and prevention of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. To strengthen the education sector, USAID facilitates teacher training, curriculum development, testing, and improvements in the management of the education system.

USAID funding also supports the expansion of civil society and the rule of law. Programs focus on civic education for youth, development of professional media and civil society organizations, continuous education of judges, and the increased transparency of the court system. Within the Millennium Challenge Account Threshold Program, USAID assists in making the judiciary more independent and effective, improving the transparency of law enforcement bodies, and strengthening the criminal justice system through institutional reform and improving operational capacity.



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